

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2173

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 5784

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), SA

SUBJECT: POSSIBILITY OF SECRETARY VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA

1. DEPFONMIN MOHAMMAD MAS'UD TELEPHONED CHARGE AUGUST 17 TO ASK--IN VIEW PRESS SPECULATION UPCOMING SECRETARY VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST--WHETHER EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED ANY FIRM INFORMATION AS TO DATES SECRETARY MIGHT VISIT SAUDI ARABIA. CHARGE SAID WE HAD NO FIRM INFORMATION ON PLANS THE SECRETARY MIGHT HAVE FOR VISITING THE KINGDOM. SINCE HE HAS COME HERE, HOWEVER, ON ALL HIS PREVIOUS MIDDLE EASTERN TRIPS, WE IN THE EMBASSY WERE REVIEWING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SUPPORT IN CASE HE EMBARKED ON A NEW MIDDLE EAST SWING.

2. MAS'UD SAID SECRETARY WOULD BE WELCOME. HE AND HIS PARTY IF THEY CAME WOULD HAVE TO GO TO TAIF WHERE KING WILL REMAIN IN RESIDENCE UNTIL AFTER THE END OF RAMADAN (CIRCA OCTOBER9). HE SHOULD NOT COME AFTER SEPTEMBER 1, SINCE TAIF WILL THEN BE FULL OF OTHER OFFICIAL VISITORS AND SAG WOULD BE UNABLE TO GIVE SECRETARY ADEQUATE RECEPTION AND SUPPORTING FACILITIES. A DATE PRIOR TO AUGUST 25 WOULD BE PREFERABLE, BUT ANYTIME FROM THE 25TH TO THE END OF THE MONTH WOULD BE OKAY.

3. MAS'UD ASKED THAT SAG BE NOTIFIED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
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OF SECRETARY'S TRAVEL PLANS. HE EXPLAINED TAIF WAS ONLY

A SMALL ARAB TOWN AND THAT COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER FACILITIES WERE NOT OF THE SAME ORDER THAT SAG HAD BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE SECRETARY ON VISITS TO RIYADH OR JIDDA. CHARGE SAID HE WOULD TRANSMIT MAS'UD'S REQUEST TO WASHINGTON. COMMENT: RE COMMUNICATIONS AND PRESS, THERE IS SOME POSSIBILITY THAT MINISTRY OF INFORMATION MAY BE ABLE TO ARRANGE A TELEPHONE TIE-IN TO SATELLITE RELAY STATION IN TAIF IF THEY ARE GIVEN ADEQUATE ADVANCE NOTICE. ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRESS FILING CAN BE ARRANGED IN JIDDA UPON ARRIVAL OF PRESS IN KINGDOM.

4. ABOVE DRAFTED BEFORE WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT OF AUGUST 17. IT IS SENT TO BE OF ANY POSSIBLE USE.
HORAN

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